

## Species Comparison Table of Freshwater Mussels of New Jersey

Freshwater Mussel Species	Lateral Hinge Teeth	Pseudocardinal Teeth	Shape	Maximum Size (inches)	Periostracum Traits	Nacre Color	Other Traits
Dwarf Wedgemussel	1 left : 2 right	2 left : 1 right	elongate triangular	1.5	yellowish to blackish	bluish-white	posterior ridge
Triangle Floater	absent	2 left : 1 right robust	triangular inflated	3	yellowish green to black;	whitish	green rays in young
Brook Floater	absent	1 left : 1 right small	sub-trapezoidal to reniform - inflated	3	yellowish green to greenish brown	bluish white to pale orange	posterior sculpturing orange foot often
Eastern Elliptio	2 left : 1 right	2 left : 1 right well developed	variable - usually sub-trapezoidal	5	variable - tan with green rays to black	variable - white pink, gold, purple	green rays in young highly variable
Eastern Floater	absent	absent	elongate with rounded ventral margin	7+	yellowish green to brown	bluish white	shell thin and fragile banding in young
Alewife Floater	absent	absent	elongate with rounded ventral margin	7	yellowish brown variable	white to pale pink	anterior ventral shell thicker than rest
Eastern Pondmussel	2 left : 1 right thin and delicate	1-2 left : 1-2 right thin	narrow and elongate compressed	6	greenish black to dark brown or black	bluish white	periostracum extends beyond ventral margin
Tidewater Mucket	2 left : 1 right	2 left : 2 right	ovate inflated	5	yellowish to greenish brown	pinkish or salmon	pseudocardinals thin well anterior to beak
Yellow Lampmussel	2 left : 1 right	2 left : 2-3 right	ovate inflated	5	bright yellow to yellowish brown	white	pseudocardinals robust located under beak
Eastern Lampmussel	2 left : 1 right	2 left : 2-3 right	subovate to ovate slightly inflated	6	yellowish green to brownish black	white to pinkish	rays usually prominent
Green Floater	2 left : 1 right vestigial	2 left : 1 right	ovate to subtrapezoidal variable	2.5	yellow to brownish green - thin	bluish white	left valve with interdental tooth, dark green rays
Creeper	absent	swollen knob on each valve	subovate to subtrapezoidal	4	yellowish to dark brown or black	white to bluish white	fine rays may be present
Paper Pondshell *	absent	absent	moderately elongate hinge line straight	4	greenish to brown - very thin	white to bluish white	beak depressed below hingeline
Lilliput *	2 left : 1 right	2 left : 1-2 right	elliptical or wedge shaped, inflated	1.5	dark green to black	iridescent white	clothlike texture sculpturing when live
Chinese Pond Mussel*	absent	absent	ovate-subovate (juveniles) to elongate (adults) can be very inflated when older	12	light green (juveniles) to brown (adults)-variable	iridescent white to bluish white	juveniles with thin, fragile shell and sail-like projection on dorsal margin

red notes are diagnostic

\* Introduced species